

**FACTS ABOUT**

# **The Advanced Clean Cars Program**

**What is the Advanced Clean Cars Program?**

The Advanced Clean Cars Program represents a new approach to controlling emissions from passenger vehicles – cars and light duty trucks – by combining the control of smog-causing pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions into a single coordinated package.

The program will result in environmentally advanced cars that will continue to deliver the performance, utility and safety car owners have come to expect.

**Protecting Public Health, Economy and Environment**

California has committed to protect public health, the economy and the environment through policies that address air pollution and climate change. Record progress has been made in addressing the state's stubborn air pollution problems but 90 percent of Californians still live in areas with unhealthy air. Climate change will exacerbate air pollution, and its impacts are already being felt in some areas. Addressing pollution from vehicles and light-duty trucks will help the California Air Resources Board (ARB) achieve those goals.

**New Standards for Cleaner Cars**

In January 2012, the ARB's governing Board approved a suite of regulations affecting new cars sold between 2015 and 2025. These regulations are collectively called the Advanced Clean Cars Program and combine what were previously independent regulations. As a result, we will achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas and smog emissions from California's cars and light-duty trucks. The number of plug-in hybrid cars and zero-emission vehicles on California's roads and highways will increase and fuels, such as electricity and hydrogen, will be readily be available for these new vehicle technologies.

This package consists of the following elements:

**Reducing smog forming pollution**

Although cars today are significantly cleaner than they were just a decade ago, there are millions of vehicles on California roads now, and those numbers will continue to increase. We are also driving more now than in previous years. In order to address this situation and continue to improve air quality ARB adopted new emission standards to reduce smog-forming emissions (also known as 'criteria pollutants') beginning with 2015 model year vehicles. Thanks to this regulation, in 2025, cars will emit 75 percent less smog-forming pollution than the average new car sold today.

**Reducing greenhouse gas emissions**

ARB worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to propose new greenhouse gas standards for model year 2017 to 2025 vehicles. (The primary vehicular greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, and this regulation focuses on reducing the number of grams of carbon dioxide emitted for each mile traveled.)

The new standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34% in 2025. Studies indicate that they are technologically feasible and will save consumers money over the life of the vehicle because lower fuel use accompanies reductions of greenhouse gases. Technologies to achieve the new standards include engine and emission control advancements, wider application of advanced hybrid technology and greater use of stronger and lighter materials.

**Promoting the cleanest cars**

The Zero Emission Vehicle Program is designed to achieve the state's long-term emission reduction goals by requiring manufacturers to offer for sale specific numbers of the very cleanest cars available. These zero-emission vehicles, which include battery electric, fuel

cell, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles are just beginning to enter the marketplace. They are expected to be fully commercial by the end of this decade. Most vehicle manufacturers agree that providing a selection of these technologies will be necessary to meet climate goals by 2050.

#### **Providing the fuels for clean cars**

The Clean Fuels Outlet regulation ensures that fuels such as electricity and hydrogen are available to meet the fueling needs of the new advanced technology vehicles as they come to market.

#### **For more information**

For information regarding Advanced Clean Cars, please contact the ARB at (800) 242-4450 or visit the Advanced Clean Cars website at: [www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/clean\\_cars/clean\\_cars.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/clean_cars/clean_cars.htm)

If you would like more information on what clean cars are available today, go to: [www.DriveClean.ca.gov](http://www.DriveClean.ca.gov).

To obtain this document in an alternative format or language please contact the ARB's Helpline at (800) 242-4450 or at [helpline@arb.ca.gov](mailto:helpline@arb.ca.gov). TTY/TDD/ Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.